

Members

Sen. Patricia Miller, Chairperson  
Sen. Lawrence Borst  
Sen. Billie Breaux  
Sen. Glenn Howard  
Rep. Vanessa Summers, Vice-Chairperson  
Rep. Ed Mahern  
Rep. Robert Behning  
Rep. Michael Young



# CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Authority: P.L. 102-1998

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: October 12, 1999  
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., Room 233  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 1

**Members Present:** Sen. Patricia Miller, Chairperson; Sen. Billie Breaux; Rep. Vanessa Summers, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Ed Mahern; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Michael Young.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Glenn Howard.

Senator Patricia Miller, Chairperson of the Central State Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. After introducing members of the Committee, Senator Miller called on Jay McQueen, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Administration (DOA), to discuss the Governor's plan for the use of the Central State property.

### Governor's Plan for Use of the Central State Property

Mr. McQueen began by reviewing some possible uses for the property that the Committee had considered in the past. He noted that the Committee had been opposed to using the property for a prison or selling the property for retail space. However, the Committee had been in favor of possibly using the property for green space. Members of the Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

had opposed "piecemealing" the property, and instead had favored finding a unified use for the property. Mr. McQueen stated that the Department of Administration also was opposed to piecemealing the property.

Senator Miller then asked Mr. McQueen to address each finding in the Governor's report.

Mr. McQueen noted that the main conclusion contained in the Governor's report is that there is presently no clear-cut, optimum use for the Central State property. The executive branch therefore believes that the state should maintain control of most of the property for the next three to five years. During that time, enough economic development should occur in the area so that an appropriate use for the property will become evident.

Mr. McQueen then addressed each finding contained in the report:

**First, steps need to be taken to reduce the operational costs of the facility.** Mr. McQueen explained that this could be accomplished in part by obtaining a less expensive heating system for the facility.

**Second, existing buildings that have no apparent present value or that would be prohibitively expensive to upgrade should be demolished.** Mr. McQueen was unable to provide the Committee specific information on which buildings would be destroyed. He agreed to provide Senator Miller with such information before the Committee's next meeting.

**Third, appropriate environmental studies should be continued to ensure that there are no unexpected issues when development becomes appropriate.** Mr. McQueen explained that Phase I environmental studies need to be implemented.

**Fourth, those buildings that appear to have continued use should be repaired.** Mr. McQueen explained that buildings should be repaired with their continued short-term use in mind. Several buildings need to be made weather-tight.

**Fifth, several residential properties along Warman Avenue should be sold.** Mr. McQueen estimated that at least two single units and three duplexes could be sold. These properties will simply deteriorate if the state does not dispose of them. The state would not sell the superintendent's house. Senator Miller asked about the amount of acreage that would be sold with these properties. Mr. McQueen agreed to provide Senator Miller with that information before the Committee's next meeting. Mr. McQueen also noted that the DOA wants to avoid leasing the properties. The state does not want to act as a landlord with respect to these properties.

Representative Mahern asked what neighborhood organization has jurisdiction in the Central State area. He suggested that the state could turn over some of the Central State property to the appropriate neighborhood association. The state would continue to own the property, but the neighborhood associations could use the property and keep any proceeds from the chosen use.

Mr. McQueen guessed that the Central State property would be part of the Hawthorne Neighborhood Association.

Representative Behning suggested that the Central State property is part of the Westside Cooperative Organization (WESCO). He expressed support for the idea that part of the property be offered to the appropriate neighborhood association so that it could be used by the community.

Mr. McQueen then addressed the report's recommendations for the state's continued short-term use of the Central State facilities. The Central State property continues to be an effective location for the State Motor Pool due to the ample parking space it provides. The report therefore recommends that the motor pool continue to be located on the property for the immediate future.

Other agencies have expressed interest in temporary use of the facilities. For example, the State Police Department has asked the DOA about using some of the available building space for training classrooms. The Department of Natural Resources has inquired about using Central State facilities to house some of its investigative offices. The city's Department of Parks and Recreation (Indy Parks) has also expressed interest in using the Central State property for office space. Although the Bureau of Motor Vehicles had initially inquired about locating a branch office on the property, it has since found another location to serve its needs.

Finally, Mr. McQueen discussed the report's recommendation to allow limited public use of the facilities. Indy Parks has obtained a two-year license from the state to use part of the property for soccer fields. The agreement provides an "out clause" for the state in case it decides on another use for the property. Senator Miller inquired about the amount of acreage that has been licensed to Indy Parks. Mr. McQueen agreed to report back to Committee with this information.

After Mr. McQueen had concluded his remarks, Senator Miller asked members of the Committee whether they were generally in agreement with the Governor's recommendations. Committee members expressed their agreement.

### **Statistics from the Division of Mental Health**

Mr. John Viernes, Deputy Director, Division of Mental Health (DMH), presented statistics to the Committee on adults with mental illness, as is required by P.L. 102-1998. Mr. Viernes noted that the statistics being presented could change after the 2000 Census.

Mr. Viernes reported that there are 236,850 adults with mental illness in Indiana. In the Central State catchment area, there are 65,052 adults with mental illness.

After presenting these numbers, Mr. Viernes explained that the DMH was unable to estimate the number of adults with mental illness who will require services for mental illness. As many as one third of all persons with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek or receive treatment. Those persons who do obtain services receive them from a variety of sources, including the general health sector, the specialty health sector, human service providers, and churches. In Indiana, data is not available on the number of persons receiving services in the private sector. It is therefore impossible to determine the total number of persons receiving treatment or the percentage of persons using public mental health systems.

Mr. Viernes then presented data on the number of adults falling within three different classifications of mental illness. In fiscal year 1999, the DMH served the following number of individuals within each classification:

- (1) Schizophrenia and other psychosis:** 8589 (24.3%)
- (2) Bipolar and personality disorders:** 6609 (18.7%)
- (3) Mood/stress or other disorders:** 20,148 (57%)

Mr. Viernes again stressed that the DMH could only report on collected data. Since the

DMH does not collect data from private psychiatric facilities and physicians, it is not known how many adults in need of services are actually accessing those services in the overall population.

Finally, Mr. Viernes discussed current requirements for mental health services. He explained that P.L. 40-1994 (IC 12-24-1-7) requires the DMH to provide 21 adult state-hospital beds for every 100,000 adults. At this rate, the DMH must provide 921 beds statewide. Indiana currently has 1,272 adult beds statewide, of which 241 are used by developmentally disabled patients. This leaves 1,031 beds for seriously mentally ill adults.

Senator Miller asked Mr. Viernes whether there was any need to use the Central State property to serve persons with mental illness. Mr. Viernes responded that the DMH does not currently need to use the property to serve the mentally ill. The DMH surveyed community mental health centers and learned that the centers do not feel that there is a need for more state hospital beds.

### **Need for Residential Programs for the Mentally Ill**

Mr. Jim Jones, Executive Director, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc., discussed the need for residential programs for the mentally ill in Indiana. According to Mr. Jones, the problem is not that there is a shortage of beds in state institutions for the mentally ill, but that there is a shortage of residential options for mentally ill persons within the community.

Mr. Jones stated that there are 78,500 people in Indiana who meet the eligibility criteria for state care. However, most of the people who are eligible for state care are not treated in state hospitals. According to Mr. Jones, the demand for care is greater than what the state is able to provide.

Compounding the problem is the fact that many people continue to occupy state hospital beds because they have nowhere else to go. Many of the people occupying these beds are forensic patients who cannot function in the standard prison environment. The DMH estimates that 200 people could be discharged from state hospitals if they had somewhere else to go.

Mr. Jones noted that, across the state, community residential programs for the mentally ill are at their full capacities. However, the availability of other housing options for the mentally ill is not uniform across the state. In all areas of the state, people other than the mentally ill are competing for low cost housing.

Senator Miller asked whether mentally ill persons need more than just a place to live. Mr. Jones responded that mentally ill persons usually require an assisted living or supervised living environment.

Senator Miller then asked whether the Central State property should be used as a residential facility for the mentally ill. Mr. Jones replied that the Central State property could be used to house forensic patients who currently occupy state hospital beds. He estimated that about 300 beds are needed for forensic patients.

Senator Breaux asked whether the mentally ill were part of the homeless population in Indianapolis. Mr. Jones answered that the mentally ill are often homeless or living in inadequate housing.

### **Status of Efforts to Provide for the Mentally Ill**

Stephen McCaffrey, President and CEO, Mental Health Association in Indiana, Inc., updated the Committee on the status of efforts to provide for the mentally ill in Indiana.

Mr. McCaffrey noted that the problems have not changed since the Committee's meetings last year. He emphasized that forensic patients make up a growing segment of institutionalized persons.

Mr. McCaffrey pointed out that the DMH and the Department of Corrections have each created a task force to address the problem of providing for the mentally ill. He suggested that the problem is being taken more seriously than in the past.

Representative Summers expressed frustration that nothing is being done to solve the problem. She noted that the Committee has been hearing the same statistics for years.

### **Statistics from the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services**

The Committee examined written data from the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS) on the number of individuals with mental retardation in Indiana and the Central State catchment area. The data indicated that there are 105,288 individuals in Indiana with mental retardation. Within the Central State catchment area, there are 15,441 individuals with mental retardation.

### **Statistics from the Indiana Department of Correction**

The Committee next examined written data from the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC). The data indicated that there were 23 civil commitments to mental health facilities between January 1 and September 30, 1999. Of these commitments, three involved females and 20 involved males. The DOC also provided the Committee with data, broken down by facility, on the number of adult male and female offenders with mental health related medical classifications. These data revealed that there are a total of 1,846 males and 329 females with mental health medical classifications in DOC facilities.

After the Committee examined the data from the DOC, Ms. Dee Weeks testified on behalf of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). Ms. Weeks expressed NAMI's concerns that mentally ill persons in DOC facilities are not receiving the treatment that they need. Ms. Weeks suggested that the Central State property be converted into a forensic hospital so that mentally ill inmates may receive the treatment they need. She explained that the conversion of the New Castle facility into a special needs hospital will only make 128 psychiatric beds available. This will be insufficient to meet the needs of all mentally ill inmates.

### **Adjournment**

Senator Miller announced that the Committee would next meet on October 27, 1999, at 10:30 a.m. At that meeting, the Committee will approve a letter in response to the Governor's report. Senator Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

